

From: dgordon
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: "Microsoft Settlement"

A few points to add to Microsoft separating themselves for other hardware/software manufacturers' is:

Microsoft wrote their own Java (programming language) to directly take away from Sun. Example: My fiancée is a realtor and when she logs onto the MLS database on our Macintosh computers, she can not get into this database. Because MLS's database is built with Microsoft's Java.

Microsoft has every intention to separate itself from all other hardware/software manufacturers.

While others of the computer industry are working together trying to make a solution with the differences in software/hardware. Microsoft has 97% of the market share. If Microsoft chooses to change a technology then the public is forced to change also. Business are also forced to do this because they have no other choice but to change, due to the fact that there are no other options. The opposite can also happen. If there is a new technology and Microsoft chooses not to support it then the new technology is stifled because of Microsoft. Example: Internet Explorer is built into Microsofts' operating system. Therefore, 97% of the market is using Internet Explorer. So, if there is a better internet browser created it is unable to compete with Microsofts' internet browser since it is built into the OS and therefore free. That means a software manufacturer has to compete with something that is free.

Most of the population only see computers with Microsofts' Windows OS. then that leads to misconceptions, which then strengthens Microsofts' monopoly.

My belief on how to handle this situation is not as simple as to force Microsoft to pay out dollar amounts, or give to charities. Example: Friday's rejection of the settlement would have given them more control over the market. Apple is known to have a larger market in the educational institutions. This settlement would have taken that market share away from Apple.

The monopoly of Microsoft is shown in the fear factor of the industry. When the only CEO of the industry is able to speak freely without fear of Microsoft pulling it's relationship from their business.

My suggestion is that Microsoft should not be able to have control over the standard (due to it's control over the market).

? I think that Microsoft should be split into divisions. Which would be totally separate entities; one being it's software and hardware, the second

being it's operating system.

? I say separate Internet Explorer from Windows. As of right now you are unable to remove Internet Explorer from it's operating system.

? Microsoft would be forced to make software for other operating systems other than Windows. Example: Linux, Macintosh, and any new OS's that could arise.

? Make Microsoft build up a fund so that any American company that wishes to switch their Windows network to a competitors will be able to draw the money out of this fund and/or give these same companies a tax break to encourage switching.

? Have Microsoft and all of the other industries leaders form an organization that vote on the direction of technology and standards. This would redirect the energy from trying to compete with Microsoft to simply competing with each others hardware/software products. It would also take Microsoft's absolute control over the population away, (commercial and residential).

I do admit that this is not a simple cut and dry question that can be answered easily. The solution may not be a perfect one but it will not effect the population drastically. Consider it only as a transitional period. One needs to realize that this computer revolution has happened within the last 7 years. It has happened quickly and before anyone could really realize what was happening. We need to find a solution to this now and not wait any longer. We will all suffer if we let this go on any longer.

The saddest part of this situation is, we don't know how bad something is until we have had something better. When there is only one entity controlling what is, how will we know what is not...

Thank you for giving me a chance to speak. Although, I will still ask that you take my words into consideration.

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